

REMARKS

Claims 1-72 are now pending in this application; claims 63-72 have been withdrawn

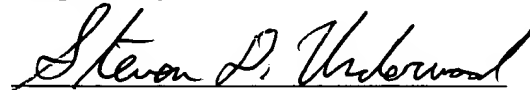
In the Office Action dated August 26, 2004, the Patent Office issued a restriction requirement on the alleged ground that claims 1-62 (Group I) and claims 3-72 (Group II) are directed to distinct inventions. This restriction requirement is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action states that the claims in Group I are "drawn to a system and method for a method for managing securities information and effecting a targeted auction." Applicants respectfully point out that claim 1, for example, makes no mention of an auction. Thus, Group I has been mischaracterized. Moreover, the Office Action attempts to distinguish the claims in Group II on the alleged ground that they are "drawn to a system for managing market information in which a CTI user database [is] in communication with a CTI manager via a computer network." But "CTI" is merely an acronym for "certified trading interest," which appears throughout the claims in Group I (see, e.g., claims 3, 6, 8, 17, 20, 22, etc.). So the mere use of the letters "CTI" is insufficient to support the assertion that Group II claims are directed to a separate invention than Group I claims.

Thus, the alleged grounds for the restriction requirement are both inaccurate and unclear. It is therefore respectfully traversed. However, since Applicants are required to elect one Group of claims, Group I is elected. The claims in Group II have been withdrawn.

No fee is believed to be due with this Response. However, if any fee is due, please charge that fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,



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